

This week, on Saturday, May 18, we as the Coalition of Health Research and Development (CHReaD), unite to observe the 27th annual HIV Vaccine Awareness Day (HVAD). HVAD serves as a poignant reminder of our collective dedication to combating HIV/AIDS through research, education, and advocacy.

As we continue our journey towards developing a preventative vaccine, HVAD presents an invaluable opportunity to deepen our understanding of HIV vaccine research and celebrate the remarkable progress made thus far.

It is a day to honor the unwavering commitment of countless volunteers, community members, health professionals, and scientists who tirelessly contribute to this vital cause. Their dedication fuels our hope for a future free from the burden of HIV/AIDS. Additionally, we acknowledge with gratitude the significant contributions of donors and governments worldwide who provide essential funding to support research and development initiatives.

Notably, organizations like KEMRI-Walter Reed in Kenya have received substantial funding, as highlighted in a recent article, to advance HIV vaccine research. Their partnership and dedication to scientific innovation play a pivotal role in driving progress toward the realization of an effective HIV vaccine. Their investment, alongside that of other stakeholders, is paramount in accelerating the pace of health research and bringing us closer to our goal.

CHReaD also calls upon governments regionally, and the Government of Kenya, to increase the allocated resources and prioritize funding for health research and development (HR&D) initiatives.

Investing in Health Research and Development is crucial for accelerating the development of preventative measures, including vaccines, and for ensuring access to effective treatment options. By committing resources to HR&D efforts, governments can demonstrate their unwavering commitment to ending the HIV/AIDS pandemic and safeguarding the health and well-being of their citizens. Together, let us urge all African governments to prioritize HR&D funding and work collaboratively towards a future free from the threat of HIV/AIDS."

Together, let us reaffirm our resolve to support and advance HIV vaccine research, ensuring equitable access to lifesaving prevention measures for all communities worldwide. On this HVAD, let us stand in solidarity, united in our mission to end the HIV/AIDS pandemic once and for all.

On Behalf of:

1. AMREF HEALTH AFRICA IN KENYA
2. PATH
3. IAVI
4. KENYA AIDS NGOs CONSORTIUM (KANCO)
5. AU ECOSSOC KENYA NATIONAL CHAPTER
6. MOVEMENT OF MEN AGAINST AIDS IN KENYA (MMAAK)
7. WACI HEALTH
8. STOP TB PARTNERSHIP KENYA
9. Q_DATAMS
10. CONCERN WORLDWIDE
11. NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF PEER EDUCATORS (NOPE)
12. VILGRO AFRICA
13. INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN FIGHTING AIDS IN KENYA (ICWK)
14. NATIONAL EMPOWERMENT NETWORK OF PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV IN KENYA (NEPHAK)
15. ACCESS TO MEDICINES PLATFORM
16. RIPPLES INTERNATIONAL
17. VIWANDA AFRICA GROUP
18. AMBASSADOR FOR YOUTH AND ADOLESCENT REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH PROGRAM (AYARHEP)
19. KENYA TREATMENT ACCESS MOVEMENT (KETAM)
20. AFRICAN POPULATION & HEALTH RESEARCH CENTRE (APHRC)
21. DEUTSCHE STIFTUNG WELTBEVÖLKERUNG (DSW) KENYA
22. UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY AFRICA (USIU)
23. MÉDECINS SANS FRONTIÈRES (MSF)
24. KENYA PROGRESSIVE NURSES ASSOCIATION
25. MOVEMENT OF MEN AGAINST AIDS IN KENYA
26. AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL (AKUH)
27. SCIENCE FOR AFRICA FOUNDATION